



SIR WILLIAM
BORLASE'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

'I really enjoy the range of skills we learn'

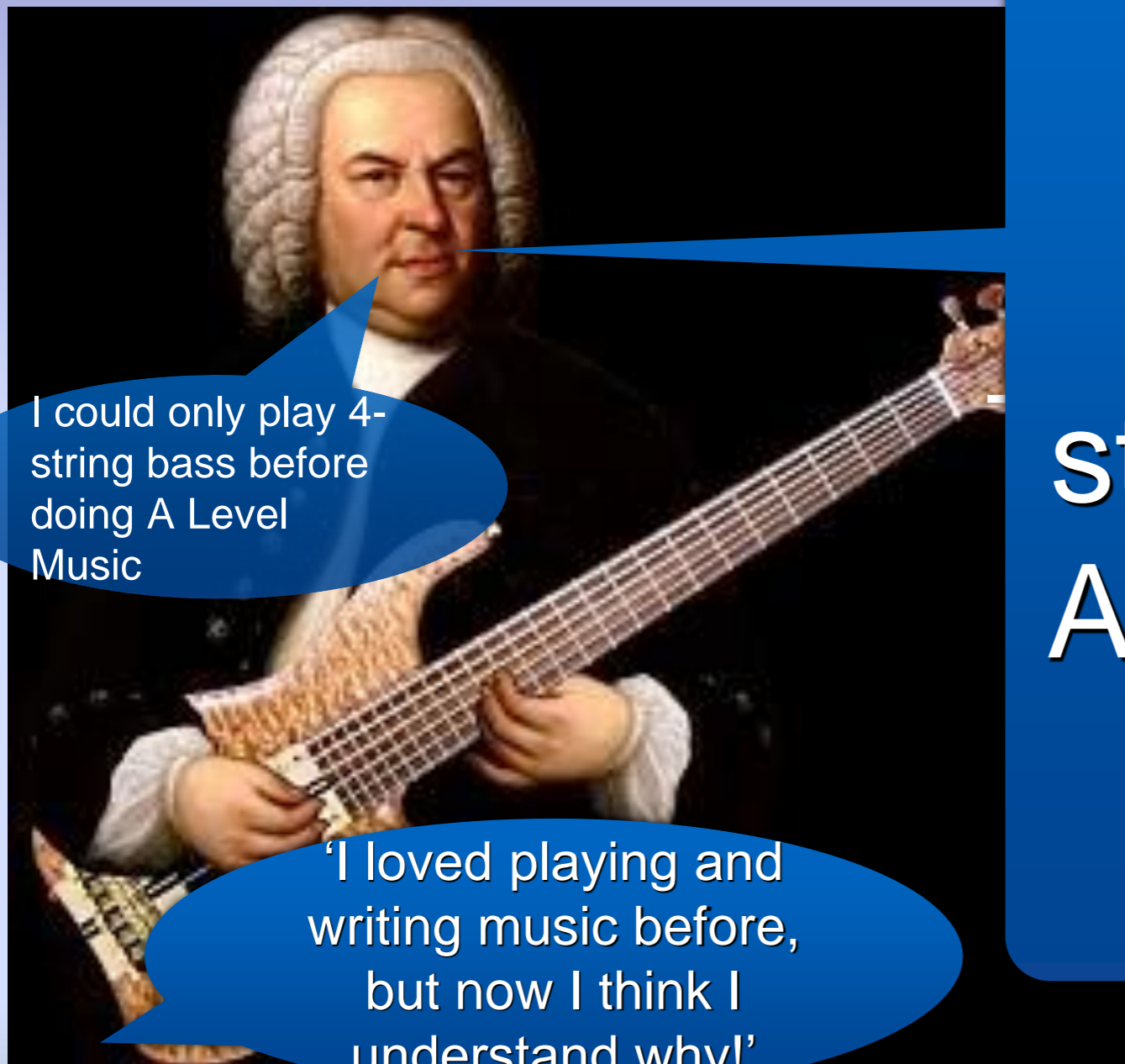
'It really complemented my other subjects' (UCL Medic)

Hard working, enthusiastic, interesting students choose A Level Music at Borlase

I could only play 4-string bass before doing A Level Music

'I loved playing and writing music before, but now I think I understand why!'

'Great to be in a class with lovely people who really love music'



Why study Music at A Level?

- Highly regarded by Oxbridge and Russell Group universities as a creative *and* academic subject.
- Transferable academic skills: mathematical, cognitive, aesthetic
- Prerequisite for many music/arts courses and careers

How do students learn?

- You can choose to undertake one-year AS Music qualification, or the full two-year A-Level
- 3 skills: performance, composition, appraising (history and analysis)
- Practical experience of music, as performers, composers, analysts
- Regular use of music software – fully updated iMac suite and recording studio
- Regular target setting

The Course (AQA)

1 Performing Music (35%):

Performance as a soloist and/or in an ensemble, lasting not less than 10 mins (AS 6 mins).

Internally recorded and externally assessed.

2 Composing Music (25%):

2 compositions lasting not less than a combined total of 4.5 mins (AS and A Level). One should be based on a set brief (these range from Bach-style SATB chorales to pop riffs); the second is a free composition that can be in any style. Externally assessed.

3 Appraising Music (40%):

3 Areas of Study (2 at AS) - Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910 (focused by set works within 3 'strands') and two others (AS – one other) from the following: Pop Music, Music for Media, Music for Theatre, Jazz, Contemporary Traditional Music, and Art Music since 1910 (each focused by the study of specified composers or artists). **Aural skills (including dictation) and musical understanding are assessed during listening questions, and analysis, contextual, historical skills are assessed through five extended answer questions and one essay. 2½ hour written exam (AS 2 hours).** Externally assessed.

Set Works at A Level

The set works studied for Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910 are:

- **Strand A – Baroque Solo Concerto:**
 - H. Purcell Sonata for Trumpet and Strings in D major Z.850
 - A. Vivaldi Flute Concerto in D *Il Gardellino* op.10 no.3 RV428 (movt. 1 only at AS)
 - J.S. Bach Violin Concerto in A minor BWV1041 (movt. 1 only at AS)
- **Strand B – The operas of Mozart:**
 - W.A. Mozart *Le Nozze di Figaro* k.492: Act 1, focusing on: overture, no.1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 (1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only for AS)
- **Strand C – The piano music of Chopin, Brahms and Grieg (A Level only):**
 - F. Chopin Ballade no.2 in F major op.38 and Nocturne in E minor op.72 no.1
 - J. Brahms Intermezzo in A major op.118 no.2 and Ballade in G minor op.118 no.3
 - E. Grieg Norwegian March op.54 no.2 and Notturmo op.54 no.4

The specified composers/artists for the other 6 Areas of Study are:

- **Pop Music:** Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, Muse, Beyoncé, Daft Punk, Labrinth
- **Music for Media:** Bernard Herrmann, Hans Zimmer, Michael Giacchino, Thomas Newman, Nobuo Uematsu
- **Music for Theatre:** Kurt Weill, Richard Rodgers, Stephen Sondheim, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Jason Robert Brown
- **Jazz:** Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Pat Metheny, Gwilym Simcock
- **Contemporary Traditional Music:** Astor Piazzolla, Toumani Diabaté, Anoushka Shankar, Mariza, Bellowhead
- **Art Music since 1910:** Dmitri Shostakovich, Olivier Messiaen, Steve Reich, James MacMillan

Shared expectations

- Be open to developing your musical understanding
- Be open to challenging yourself and each other/your teachers!
- Complete work to the highest standard
- Work independently
- Take a full role in musical life at Borlase

What music can you do at Borlase?

- **Choral: Cantorum** (senior choir), Chapel Choir (senior girls), Madriguys (senior boys), Gospel Choir (senior girls), Male Quartet (senior boys), Lend Me a Tenor (senior mixed), Octet (senior mixed), Senior Musical
- **Instrumental:** Symphony Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Guitar Ensemble, Clarinet Collective, Flute Choir, Saxophone Ensemble, Rock Club
- **Conducting and musical leadership**
- **Mentors** to Junior choirs, orchestras, and other ensembles
- **Form your own bands and ensembles**
- **Visiting workshops and masterclasses** from leading professionals (including Lilian Boute Gospel Singing, Garsington Opera, Holland Park Opera, Royal Opera House)
- **Trips to concerts and other music events**
- **Full calendar of internal & external concert opportunities** (including international tours, local festivals, St George's Chapel, Music for Youth and other national competitions).
- **House Music Competitions**
- **This year 30 major Music events** from chamber concerts to summer rock events